



Sustainable Fuel Cycle

TASK FORCE

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Sustainable Fuel Cycle Task Force Science Panel

May 23, 2013

Secretary Ernest Moniz
Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz,

On behalf of the Sustainable Fuel Cycle Task Force (SFCTF) Science Panel, we congratulate you upon your confirmation as Secretary of Energy and request that you include the implementation of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future (BRC) as a DOE priority matter.

As scientists who have worked for many decades to provide a scientifically sound approach for safely managing and disposing of our nation's used nuclear fuel and high level radioactive wastes, we urge you to energize the DOE to more proactively develop an operable geological disposal facility and an integrated companion interim storage facility, as recommended by the BRC, upon which you served. We are very concerned that DOE progress to date has not been commensurate with the prompt action called for in the BRC report.

We regret the Administration's actions to stop work on the thoroughly scientifically evaluated Yucca Mountain site and believe that licensing by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission should continue as stated by law. But regardless of the political/legal outcome of the first repository Yucca Mountain site, we consider it imperative that DOE promptly move forward to implement the BRC recommended consensus siting process for the NWP second repository.

Although we appreciate the efforts of Nuclear Energy Assistant Secretary Lyons to address the need, it appears that he and his office have not had the support from above to move forward as much as needs to be done under existing law and the circumstances. For example, as you know, engagement with potentially interested host states to hopefully create a consensus host agreement is the critical path. We believe that beneficial engagement can be done now under existing law to support that process. However, it seems that all that is being done by DOE are general statements about eventually starting a process for a process.

We believe that DOE could immediately support states and communities that would like to know more through a grant process, as was done in the late 1980s, or through private industry, as was done in the Global Nuclear Energy Program (GNEP) more recently. It should be noted that the GNEP program resulted in 11 interested site areas.

We would be pleased to meet with you, or your senior staff, to discuss further the importance and options for moving forward more effectively than has been the case recently.

Yours sincerely for the Science Panel,

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